

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MARCH 19, 2007

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Bill Williams, Vice Chairman Jerry W. Barnes, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, and Billy E. Traylor. <Commissioner Nathan Peters, Jr. was absent>.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Building Inspector George Knight, E.D.C. Director Alan McNair, 911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Sheriff's Office Deputy Chip Bailey, and Sheriff's Office Major Joe Nugent.

Chairman Williams called the special meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., E.T.

TAX REFORM

Chairman Williams discussed the House Sub-Committee on Tax Reform, stating that the small Counties are exempt from going back to the 2001 rolled-back rate, and the County is still involved with the ad valorem assessment. He discussed that their strategy is to take 33 of the 67 Counties back to the 2001 rolled-back rate, abolish homestead and replace it with a 2.5 cent sales tax. Chairman Williams discussed that this bill will do nothing to help the businesses and the secondary home owners.

WILLIAMS ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE/SLUDGE DUMPING

Commissioner McLemore discussed that D.E.P. representatives attended the special meeting on March 13th, and they were unable to answer the questions concerning Williams Environmental Waste hauling sludge into Gulf County (twenty-nine entities are dumping sludge in Gulf County), and dumping it beside Wetappo Creek. Don Minchew, City Manager of Wewahitchka, appeared before the Board and discussed that the City of Wewahitchka has a vested interest in this issue. He discussed the inspection that D.E.P. performed fifteen months ago, stating that there were a number of potential violations cited to Williams Environmental Waste and all their customers. Mr. Minchew discussed that the City of Wewahitchka checked to see about hauling to another site, and the closest site is Springhill (Jackson County) at 3.8 times the rate being paid to Williams Environmental Waste. He discussed that the City of Wewahitchka is very concerned about Wetappo Creek, stating that no testing has been done on the creek or at the point site to determine if the creek is being polluted. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding the date that the permits were issued for Wetappo Farms, Mr. Minchew discussed that he can provide a copy of the permit, and he also stated that the City of Wewahitchka signed a letter of recommendation to open the new site. Upon

inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding the City of Wewahitchka handling their own sludge, Mr. Minchew discussed that government utilities do not handle sludge, and this is an economic issue. Commissioner Traylor discussed that the testing on these sites has not been adequate.

COASTAL CONSTRUCTION CONTROL LINE

County Attorney McFarland discussed the relocation of the erosion control line and the C.C.C.L., and the impact that it will have on the County tax base. After further discussion by members of the Board, Chairman Williams requested that Deputy Administrator Lanier set up a meeting with the Secretary of D.E.P., for him, Commissioner Barnes, and Chief Administrator Butler. Patricia Hardman appeared before the Board and discussed that she has contacted D.E.P. regarding the difference between the C.C.C.L. and the thirty-year erosion line. She discussed that she inquired about the location of the thirty-year erosion line in relation to the new C.C.C.L., and D.E.P. stated that it changes. Ms. Hardman then asked if there was any place that the C.C.C.L. and the thirty-year erosion line are at the same point (you do not build in front of the thirty-year erosion line), and D.E.P. replied that in many places it is contiguous. County Attorney McFarland discussed that if the property was plated after October 1, 1985, you cannot build on this property. Commissioner Traylor recommended taking the maps out to the Fire Department for the citizens to review. Commissioner McLemore recommended scheduling a Town Hall Meeting at the Cape to notify the residents on this issue. After further discussion by members of the Board, Chairman Williams scheduled a Special Meeting for Thursday, March 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., E.T. at Rish Park.

BUILDING - HIGHLAND VIEW/SOUTH GULF COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Chairman Williams discussed the erection of new fire department buildings in District 3 (2) and in District 5 (2), and requested that the Board advertise to receive sealed proposals for design/build construction of these buildings. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

RAFFIELD FISHERIES

Chairman Williams discussed a letter regarding the location of Raffield Fisheries and the 250' core set-back line for spoil easements (Raffield's needs a variance), and requested assistance from the Board with a letter to D.E.P., stating that the County has no conflict with the variance as the sponsor of the Gulf County Canal. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this request. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed 3 to 0, with Commissioner Barnes abstaining, due to family involvement.

HONEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER/SHELTER

Commissioner McLemore discussed that the bid for construction of the Honeyville Community Center/Shelter was awarded to Cathey Construction, and they still have not signed a contract for this project. After further discussion by members of the Board, Commissioner McLemore motioned to issue a Notice to Proceed. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

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ANNEXATION

Chairman Williams discussed the ongoing problems with annexation and the City of Port St. Joe, stating that the City of Port St. Joe has agreed to discuss any future annexation with the Board, and they have not had any discussion on annexation. County Attorney McFarland discussed making the City of Port St. Joe honor the contract. Upon inquiry by Chairman Williams regarding the County filing a law suit against the City of Port St. Joe, County Attorney McFarland stated they need to give the City of Port St. Joe a time frame to honor the contract and if they do not, the County would file a breach of contract. Upon inquiry by Commissioner McLemore regarding the new annexation, County Attorney McFarland discussed that the County will need to file a Writ of Certiorari in the Circuit Court to stall the process. Commissioner McLemore motioned to file the Writ in Circuit Court. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0). Chairman Williams recommended that County Attorney McFarland submit a letter to the City of Port St. Joe, giving them seven days to produce the documentation to the Board. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Williams discussed that items (invoices) placed in the Consent Agenda need to be checked by Chief Administrator Butler prior to being placed in the Agenda. Clerk Norris discussed that there are invoices coming over that are not being signed and approved by a Department Head or Chief Administrator Butler. She stated that the Clerk's Office has to know if it is approved, and if it has been budgeted, and when it is placed in the Consent Agenda it should already be reviewed by a Department Head, Supervisor or whomever the Board designates. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor regarding a Department Head signing on the invoice, Clerk Norris discussed that someone on the Board's staff needs to sign the invoices. Chairman Williams recommended that a Department Head and Chief Administrator Butler sign all invoices (showing it is approved for payment) prior to being placed in the Consent Agenda. Clerk Norris discussed that she only needs one signature before it is placed in the Consent Agenda and paid. After further discussion by the Board, Chairman Williams requested that Chief Administrator Butler sign the invoices and in his absence it would be Deputy Administrator Lanier or Grant Writer Costin. Clerk Norris discussed that the Clerk's Office will begin paying invoices weekly, and requested that the invoices be turned in on a timely manner. She stated that the Clerk's Office will no longer be hand-typing, manual checks unless it is on an emergency basis. Commissioner Traylor motioned for the Department Head and Chief Administrator Butler to sign all invoices to be placed in the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

SPECIAL PROJECT PAYMENTS

Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the following special project payments (Parks & Recreation). Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

Dist. 1	Gene Raffield Football League - Donation	\$100.00
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	Dixie Youth Baseball - Donation	\$100.00
Dist. 2	Gene Raffield Football League - Donation	\$100.00
	Dixie Youth Baseball - Donation	\$100.00
Dist. 3	Gene Raffield Football League - Donation	\$100.00
	Dixie Youth Baseball - Donation	\$100.00
Dist. 4	Gene Raffield Football League - Donation	\$100.00
	Dixie Youth Baseball - Donation	\$100.00
Dist. 5	Gene Raffield Football League - Donation	\$100.00
	Dixie Youth Baseball - Donation	\$100.00

(End)

ROAD PAVING

Michael Hammond of Preble-Rish, Inc., appeared before the Board and discussed the priority ranking list for the road paving project. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor regarding adding roads to this list, Chairman Williams discussed that if there is something with a higher priority it can be added to the list. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor regarding the Wewahitchka Health Department, Mr. Hammond discussed that the Wewahitchka Health Department paving is not on this list, and Commissioner Traylor requested that the Health Department be added along with the paving at the Sheriff Substation in Wewahitchka. Mr. Hammond discussed that if the Board approves the list, then the actual design needs to be done before a change order is done. Commissioner Traylor also requested a design and cost estimate for Kemp Cemetery Road. Commissioner McLemore motioned to proceed with the road paving. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0). Commissioner McLemore motioned for Chairman Williams to sign the change order once prepared by G.A.C. Contractors. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (4-0).

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the special meeting did then adjourn at 10:25 a.m., E.T.

BILL WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS

CLERK